Articulation in music has to do with tonguing and slurring. When you tongue notes, you interrupt the steady stream of air with your tongue. The tongue acts like a valve. When you slur notes, you connect them with a steady stream of air and no tongue.

Practicing tonguing and slurring is a very important part of learning to play your instrument. It allows us to "speak" the music clearly and do exactly what the composer wants us to do. When someone speaks "articulately" they speak clearly. We want to be clear when we perform music also.







When we tongue the notes we can give the notes differents lengths. There are musical signs for these lengths. A "dot" above or below a notehead means to play that note staccato or separated. A line above or below a notehead means to play that note with length or smoothly.



